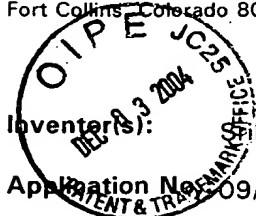


2144/14

PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10007591-1



IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Srikanth Natarajan et al.

Confirmation No.: 9191

Application No. 09/838,239

Examiner: Tam T. Phan

Filing Date: April 20, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2144

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CONSOLIDATING NETWORK TOPOLOGY IN DUPLICATE IP NETWORKS

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR RESPONSE/AMENDMENT

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is/are the following in the above-identified application:

- (X) Response/Amendment () Petition to extend time to respond
() New fee as calculated below () Supplemental Declaration
(X) No additional fee
() Other: (fee \$)

CLAIMS AS AMENDED BY OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY						
(1) FOR	(2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(5) PRESENT EXTRA	(6) RATE	(7) ADDITIONAL FEES
TOTAL CLAIMS	8	MINUS	20	= 0	X \$18	\$ 0
INDEP. CLAIMS	2	MINUS	3	= 0	X \$88	\$ 0
[] FIRST PRESENTATION OF A MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					+ \$300	\$ 0
EXTENSION FEE	1ST MONTH \$110.00	2ND MONTH \$430.00	3RD MONTH \$980.00	4TH MONTH \$1530.00		\$ 0
OTHER FEES						\$
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT						\$ 0

Charge \$ 0 to Deposit Account 08-2025. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Date: 12-3-04

Respectfully submitted,

Srikanth Natarajan et al.

By: *Patrick C. Keane* for:
Reg. No. 48,360
Patrick C. Keane

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 32,858

Date: Dec. 3, 2004

I hereby certify that this document is being filed by personal delivery to the Customer Service Window, Crystal Plaza 2, 2011 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia, of the United States Patent & Trademark Office on the date indicated above.

By: *Patrick C. Keane* 48,360
(Attorney Signature and Reg. No.)



Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 10007591-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Srikanth Natarajan et al.

Application No.: 09/838,239

Filed: April 20, 2001

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
CONSOLIDATING NETWORK
TOPOLOGY IN DUPLICATE IP
NETWORKS

) **MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

) Group Art Unit: 2144

) Examiner: Tam T. Phan

) Confirmation No.: 9191

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated September 3, 2004, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-8 remain pending in the application.

In numbered paragraph 6, on page 2 of the Office Action, independent claims 1 and 8, along with various dependent claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by WO 00/49769 (Lecheler et al.). In numbered paragraph 15, on page 4 of the Office Action, independent claims 1 and 8, along with various dependent claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) over Hewlett-Packard's commonly assigned U.S. Patent No. 5,948,055 (Pulsipher et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Lecheler publication and the Pulsipher patent do not disclose assigning to a collection computer a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides; and maintaining within the at least one management computer a database of the information

accessed using the management domain identifier, as recited in claim 1. Similar features are recited in claim 8.

The Lecheler publication discloses a system directed to distinguishing duplicate network addresses in the customer domain using "Level 1" manager mapping tables, rather than by assigning unique identifiers to collection computers with a management domain using a management station database, as presently claimed. Page 14, in the first paragraph of the Lecheler patent, describes that after mapping a network address to a unique domain name and generating a unique location identifier, a message creator of a level one manager (such as "Level 1 Manager 34 in Figure 1) ensures that no duplicate network addresses are sent to the level two manager 40 of Figure 1. An exemplary message creator 82 is shown in Figure 3. Focusing on unique domain names instead of network addresses is intended to eliminate the potential for duplicate network addresses being sent to level two manager 40. However, Lecheler's domain name relates to the customer network. The level one managers act as gateways between the customer domain and the manager domain to ensure that level two manager 40 does not receive duplicate network address messages (page 14, lines 1-6 and 25-28).

Thus, the Lecheler publication deals with a unique location identifier of the customer domain at the level one manager 34-38, but does not address unique identification with a management domain. A unique identification of the source of an event is not resolved at a management computer by assigning a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides, and maintaining within at least one management computer a database of the information accessed using the management domain

identifier, as claimed. Rather, Lecheler relates to unique customer domain name managed at the collection level 1 station. For example, as shown in Figure 3 of the Lecheler publication, the mapping table 84 which converts the network address to a unique customer network domain name resides within the level one manager 34, and not the Figure 1 "level two manager 40." Accordingly, the Lecheler publication does not resolve unique identification by management domain identifier within the management computer.

In addition, the Lecheler publication assigns a unique domain name for each of the network addresses (page 13, lines 17-23; and step 102 of Figure 4a). In contrast to Applicant's claims 1 and 8, a management domain identifier is not uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides, but rather relates to the managed customer networks 16. Applicant's claims 1 and 8 recite, for example, assigning to a collection computer a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides. The Lecheler publication does not disclose or suggest at least these recited claimed features.

The Pulsipher patent does not disclose assigning a collection computer a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides, as claimed. The Pulsipher patent discloses that both management and collection stations include a layout mechanism for receiving topology data and driving the output device based upon the topology data and a discovery mechanism for discovering and storing the topology data (column 3, lines 18-22). Thus, the Pulsipher patent does not disclose a management domain identifier which is uniquely associated with a management domain.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant's claims 1 and 8 are allowable over the Lecheler publication and the Pulsipher patent. The remaining claims depend from independent claim 1 and recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the documents relied upon by the Examiner. As such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

All rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.



Date: December 3, 2004

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